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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/700,669	11/05/2003	Takuji Matsubara	12916/3	6433
23838	7590	09/27/2005		
KENYON & KENYON 1500 K STREET NW SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20005			EXAMINER MC CALL, ERIC SCOTT	
			ART UNIT 2855	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 09/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/700,669	MATSUBARA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Eric S. McCall	2855	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 July 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 2-7 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 05 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

EVAPORATED FUEL TREATMENT DEVICE OF
INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

FINAL OFFICE ACTION

In response to the Applicant's amendment dated July 15, 2005.

CLAIMS

35 U.S.C. § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kidokoro (5,816,222).

With respect to claim 1, Kidokoro suggests an evaporated fuel treatment device for internal combustion engine that uses a canister to absorb evaporated fuel generated in a fuel tank for evaporated fuel treatment purposes, said device comprising:

a sealing valve (16) for controlling the continuity between said fuel tank and said canister (col. 5, lines 54-56);

a differential pressure detection means for detecting the difference between a canister side pressure which exists in a canister side area of the sealing valve and a tank internal pressure (col. 12, lines 48-51); and

an open failure normality judgment means for judging that no open failure exists in said sealing valve when said differential pressure detection means detects a differential pressure higher than a judgment value (see col. 2, lines 29+; col. 3, lines 60-66; and col. 4, lines 23-31).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 2, which has been interpreted under 35 USC 112, sixth paragraph, has been found to be allowable over the prior art in view of the Applicant's arguments taking into account the use of the "means for" language throughout the claim.

Claims 3-7 depend from claim 2 and are thus allowable.

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS

The Applicant's arguments have been considered but have not been found to be persuasive with respect to claim 1.

The Applicant recognizes that the prior art teaches the detection of a pressure difference between the tank and the canister, but the Applicant argues that the prior art does not teach a detection of a sealing valve failure. The Applicant argues that the defects detected by the prior art are the primarily leaks on the canister side all the while valve integrity is assumed.

The Examiner points out this argument by the Applicant supports the Examiner's position. The Applicant states that the valve integrity is assumed. In other words, during the prior art's judgement, the valve is determined to be ok. Thus, during the prior art's judgement when a differential pressure is higher than a judgement value, "no open failure exists" in the valve as is claimed. If the valve is good, then no open failure exists.

CONCLUSION

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Eric S. McCall whose telephone number is (571) 272-2183.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Eric S. McCall
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2855
Sep. 21, 2005